



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Freedom of Information Act newsletter for RIDS

# RIDS FOIA BUZZ

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## Message from Section Chief David M. Hardy Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS)

First in-first out, or FIFO, is one of the central elements in the management of our dynamic FOIA process. I want to explain why and how we use it beyond the fact that it is a requirement in FOIA. As to the why, our goal is to get information to the most requesters as soon as possible. As to the how,....

We measure the "first in" time based on the date of receipt of a request. After requests are made date ready and placed in the backlog, they are assigned to a Disclosure Unit using FIFO based on that receipt date. After that, the process resembles a boiling rapid. At any one time, we

have about 1,000 requests that are being reviewed, comprising of 1.8 million pages. We have in our queues requests that range from one page to several hundred thousand pages. A large percentage of the requests require additional declassification, sensitivity, and/or subject matter expert reviews. Requests in litigation may be subject to court-ordered deadlines. In short, once assigned to a Disclosure Unit, the requests can't move at the same speed because there are so many other factors that enter into the equation.

There is one more variable that is very important. We can process about 10% of the pending pages (approximately 180,000 pages) in any given month. Take all of this, throw it together, and the result is a complex process.

The statute and regulations assist our goal of getting information to as many requesters as soon as possible by providing for separate queues-each with its own FIFO order-based on the size of the request. Each LAS should work on multiple requests using FIFO; making interim releases. Continued on page four.

## Special Topics:

- *RIDS Q & A*
- *Classification*
- *Litigation*
- *On the Lighter Side!*
- *FOIA Processing Hot Topics*
- *Bolos*
- *Back Page Buzz*

## Department Review Committee (DRC) Visit by LAS [redacted]

The visit on June 21, 2011 to observe the DRC meeting was very insightful. This was a great opportunity to see how serious this committee takes our work and the professionalism reflected by [redacted] and [redacted] in the presentation and explanation. Though it does take us away from work for a day, it's important to see how our day to day work has an impact in the bigger scheme.

Several of the DRC members have been on board for years and their questions were to the point and they offered background information to the issue being discussed in reference to prior cases. One can see that we have really built a reputation on our presentations for justifying material which became apparent with an appeal. [redacted] cited the categories within the auto-declass guide corresponding to the reasoning and referenced the GF-1 guide for

information provided and relationship. The committee accepted that we have done our homework and we are processing in light of the current Executive Order.

I thank both [redacted] and [redacted] for allowing me to be an observer, it was worthwhile.

Submitted by:

LAS [redacted] CU-1

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## Real FBI Suggested Investigative Techniques by LAS [REDACTED]

**"The fellow who does things that count, doesn't usually stop to count them."**

**Source Unknown**

In 1947, the FBI prepared a memo where special agents submitted suggestions for investigative techniques and methods to Headquarters. These suggestions included special techniques to apprehend fugitives, sample pretexts, conducting surveillance, obtaining confessions, and other topics. This material was prepared for distribution to all agents as a regular bulletin. Some of the suggestions are as follows:

"It is possible at times to determine from a child member of a family the whereabouts

of a fugitive thereof by acquiring his friendship through a small gift of candy."

"Night surveillance of automobiles are simplified if it is possible to previously make a small crack in the tail light of the subject's automobile."

"Practically no noise is made in walking through the woods if feet are wrapped in food bags."

"Where dogs guard a house, consider obtaining a female dog in heat to act as a lure."

"It has been found to be of assistance to carry an extra

man's and woman's glove in order to provide a suitable pretext to approach doormen in exclusive clubs and apartments for the purpose of inquiring as to the identity of unknown contact who has entered the house or club."

As stated in the memo, "It is believed that this procedure will serve to correlate such material, stimulate voluntary participation by the Agents, maintain a fresh flow and interchange of investigative ideas and in time create a reservoir for future reference."

**RIDS received a request seeking the following information.**

**"If you would please provide me Robert Mueller's email address I would appreciate it as the matter of the five years of harassment, violence, vandalism and defamation and slander requires the assistance of astute team of FBI investigative specialists to work with me."**

## Plane Crash into IRS Office, Austin, Texas by LAS [REDACTED]

On February 18, 2011 Andrew "Joseph" Stack flew a small engine plane loaded with extra fuel and crashed into Building I of the Echelon office complex in Austin. Mr. Stack was killed during the attack, which also killed an IRS employee (Vernon Hunter), as well as injuring several other individuals. The IRS field office was located in the four-story office complex along with other state and federal agencies.

Mr. Hunter was a Vietnam veteran. The FBI's investigation revealed that Mr. Stack was having marital problems and being audited for the second time by the IRS. Nothing in the investigation revealed that Mr. Stack was part of any homegrown terrorist, or anti-government movement and acted alone. In June, RIDS released 539 documents, 412 photographs, and one audio CD.



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## Former U. S. Representative (Illinois) Daniel David Rostenkowski

The FBI made it's first interim release of 725 responsive records to twelve requesters. Daniel Rostenkowski, former United States Representative from Illinois, from 1959 to 1955. He served as chairman, Committee on Ways and Means (Ninety-seventh through One Hundred Third Congress), and Joint Committee on Taxation (Ninety-seventh through One Hundred First Congresses).

Rostenkowski died on August 11, 2010, in Powers Lake, Wisconsin.

Four of the five main investigative files contain information regarding telephonic and written threats by Rostenkowski's offices.

The main investigative file consists of volumes 1 through 4 of an investigation which was initiated by the U. S. Capitol Police in April 1991.

regarding a single embezzlement charge against a single employee of the Congressional Post Office. The FBI investigation was composed of allegations in two areas. One case involved the use of the House Post Office to obtain cash from their campaign fund accounts. The other case involved the use of U. S. Post Office boxes to circumvent campaign fund laws. The request is being processed by the Savannah team.